



REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment the title has been changed. Claims 1-21 remain in the application. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and action to that effect is respectfully requested. The undersigned may be reached at (510) 572-1667.

Respectfully submitted,
Lam Research Corporation

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael S. Brandt".

Michael S. Brandt
Reg. No. 39,119

4650 Cushing Parkway, CA-1
Fremont, CA 94536
Telephone (510) 572-1667
Customer No. 27787